

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A4

NEW YORK TIMES
27 March, 1985

New Nicaragua Policy Urged

By JOEL BRINKLEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 26 — The chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence urged President Reagan today not to ask Congress for renewed aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, calling the policy an "illogical and illegal absurdity."

Speaking to the National Press Club, the committee chairman, Senator Dave Durenberger, Republican of Minnesota, said he felt uncomfortable giving a speech on American policy in Central America, since the intelligence committee chairman is not supposed to discuss such issues in public.

But he said he felt compelled to come forward for what he called his first and last address on the subject because, he contended, United States policy in Central America is being held "hostage to an ill-timed, ill-planned program in support of a policy which no one understands."

He Asks for New Policy

Unless the White House proposes a new program to deal with Nicaragua, he added, "the Executive will leave itself open to defeat by Congress."

The White House had no comment on Mr. Durenberger's remarks today.

White House officials have said they intend to ask Congress within the next few weeks to approve \$14 million in renewed covert aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, even though they recognize that Congressional opposition is strong.

Although Mr. Durenberger said he shared virtually all of President Reagan's concerns about Nicaragua, he added that "the controversy" between Congress and the White House over the vote on aid "is joined on the wrong issue."

He said that "a negative vote implies, incorrectly, that Congress and the Administration are not in agreement on the need to oppose the Sandinistas and all they stand for."

Instead, Mr. Durenberger urged the White House to form a wholly new policy for dealing withh Nicaragua, instead of the "incoherent" policy of "reacting after the fact to events which appear beyond our control."

This month, the White House said it had considered all other policy options proposed on Nicaragua, only to find them unacceptable.

Mr. Durenberger, offering his own plan, said the United States and the other nations should consider cutting diplomatic relations with Managua and ceasing all trade and economic cooperation.

"If we oppose the regime in Managua," he said, "why do we buy Nicaraguan beef and bananas?"

Further, Mr. Durenberger said, the United States should consider a naval blockade, to insure that Nicaragua does not continue importing Soviet-bloc arms. He also said the Administration should make clear that the United States is prepared to join in an invasion of Nicaragua, "if the other nations undertake a collective action" in response to Sandinista aggression.

STAT